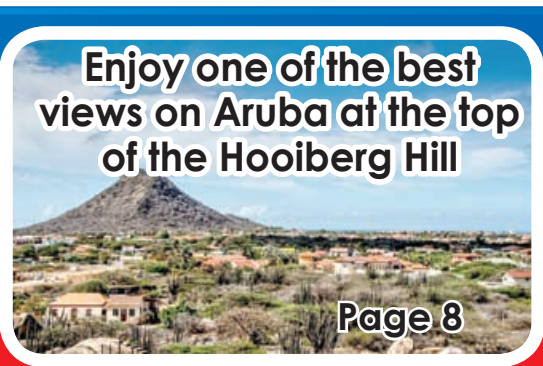
ARUBA TODAY®
Tuesday
September 30, 2025
T: 582-7800
www.arubatoday.com
facebook.com/arubatoday
instagram.com/arubatoday
Aruba's ONLY English newspaper



The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

Page 10

Lawsuit accuses firearms industry group of using gun owners' personal data to tailor political ads

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A firearms industry trade and lobbying organization secretly built a database containing the personal information of millions of gun owners and used the data to target gun rights supporters with political ads dating back to the 2000 elections, according to a new lawsuit.

The suit against the National Shooting Sports Foundation, based in Shelton, Connecticut, alleges the organization obtained the data from major gun manufacturers, whose customers never agreed to have their personal information turned over to the NSSF or used for political purposes.

The suit filed by two gun owners alleges "unjust enrichment" that the NSSF benefited from using gun owners' information without paying for it.

The NSSF claimed in a public report that its advertising using the database was a "critical component" of Republican George W. Bush's narrow presidential victory in 2000, the lawsuit says.

For the 2016 election in which Republican Donald Trump was elected president, the group hired the Cambridge Analytica political consulting firm to use the database to mobilize gun rights supporters in swing states, according to the lawsuit. Cambridge Analytica, which supported Trump's campaign, later folded amid revelations that it paid a Facebook app developer for access to the personal information of 87 million Facebook users that it used to target voters in 2016 which became a major privacy scandal.

This photo taken Wednesday, Jan. 22 2020, shows firearms on display at SHOT Show, the annual trade show sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

The NSSF, whose members include thousands of gun manufacturers, distributors and retail shops, did not respond to an email seeking comment Monday. The organization has said that there was nothing illegal or improper about its data collection.

Plaintiffs are gun owners from Oklahoma, Illinois

The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status on behalf of gun owners nationwide, was filed in U.S. District Court in Connecticut on Sept. 22 and assigned to a federal judge in Hartford. It says class-action damages could exceed $5 million but does not provide a specific dollar amount.

The plaintiffs are gun owners Daniel Cocanour of Oklahoma and Dale Rimkus of Illinois, who provided their personal information to gun makers when they filled out warranty cards after buying firearms, the lawsuit says.

The cards are used by consumers to obtain rebates and repair or replace their firearms.

The lawsuit mirrors reporting by ProPublica on the NSSF's use of gun owners' information for political purposes.

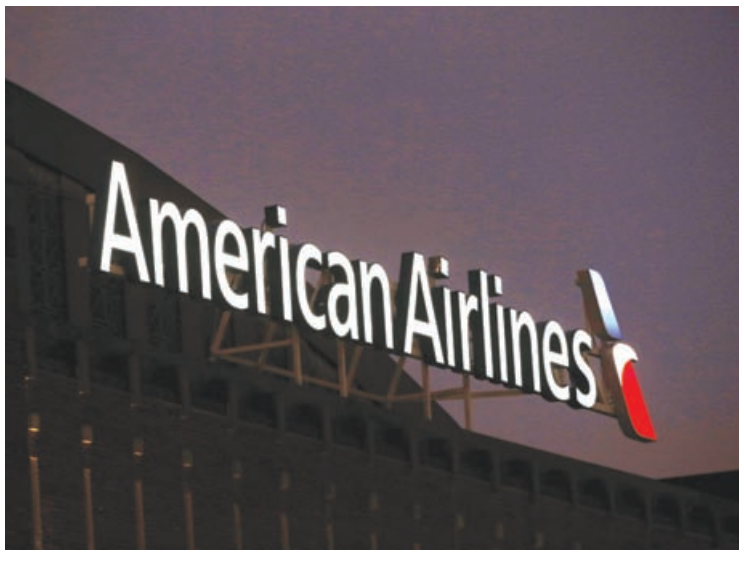
The NSSF began compiling its database in 1999 using warranty card information from manufacturers in the wake of the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado that killed 12 students and a teacher, as gun companies sought to defend their industry against legal action and protect their image, the lawsuit says.

The warranty cards provided a relative wealth of information about firearms buyers, including contact information, gender, age, income, interests, what vehicles they own and why the bought a gun, according to the lawsuit.

"The complaint filed last week alleges that for decades, NSSF violated the right of firearms purchasers to know who receives their personal information and to control how that information is used," said Ben Gould, a Seattle-based lawyer for the plaintiffs. "Through the complaint, two brave plaintiffs have stepped forward to vindicate the rights of millions of their fellow firearms purchasers."

Gould's law firm, Seattle-based Keller Rohrback, represented plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Facebook parent Meta that ended with a $725 million settlement over the platform giving Cambridge Analytica users' personal information.❑

Suspected stowaway is found dead in plane's landing gear at a North Carolina airport



The American Airlines logo is seen atop the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Dec. 19, 2017.

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Airplane maintenance workers at a North Carolina airport found the body of a suspected stowaway in the landing gear compartment of an American Airlines flight that had recently arrived from Europe, police said.The body was found Sunday morning while the plane was undergoing maintenance at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department said in a statement that it is investigating the death.

Neither the airline nor police have offered information about the person who died, including a possible cause of death, or said where the flight originated.

The airport said it was deeply saddened by the discovery and said it will support the police investigation. American Airlines said it was working with law enforcement on its investigation and directed questions to police.

Experts believe roughly three-quarters of stowaways do not survive if they hide on a plane's undercarriage because of the extreme cold and lack of oxygen they experience as the plane reaches cruising altitude.

In January, two bodies were found in the landing gear compartment of a JetBlue aircraft at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The bodies were discovered in the wheel well area during a routine post-flight inspection. The aircraft had arrived in Fort Lauderdale shortly after flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. The jet had been in both Kingston, Jamaica, and Salt Lake City, Utah, earlier that day.❑

Government shutdown draws closer as congressional leaders leave White House meeting

By STEPHEN GROVES and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic and Republican congressional leaders held a meeting at the White House Monday afternoon with President Donald Trump in a late effort to avoid a government shutdown, but left saying that they still had large differences in their positions.

If government funding legislation isn't passed by Congress and signed by Trump on Tuesday night, many government offices across the nation will be temporarily shuttered and nonexempt federal employees will be furloughed, adding to the strain on workers and the nation's economy.

"There are still large differences between us," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said as he left the White House. Schumer added that Democratic leaders had laid out their demands to extend health care benefits.

But Trump, ahead of the meeting, made it clear he had no intention to negotiate on Democrats' current terms.

"They're going to have to do some things because their ideas are not very good ones," the president said Monday.

Republicans are daring Democrats to vote against legislation that would keep government funding mostly at current levels, but Democrats have held firm. They're using one of their few points of leverage to demand Congress take up legislation to extend health care benefits.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., talk to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House, Monday, Sept. 29, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Democrats' health care demands

Trump has shown little interest in entertaining Democrats' demands on health care, even as he agreed to hold a sit-down meeting Monday with Schumer, along with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, House Speaker Mike Johnson and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries. The Republican president has said repeatedly he fully expects the government to enter a shutdown this week.

"If it has to shut down, it'll have to shut down," Trump said Friday. "But they're the ones that are shutting down government."

The Trump administration has tried to pressure Democratic lawmakers into backing away from their demands, warning that federal employees could be permanently laid off in a funding lapse.

"Chuck Schumer said a few months ago that a government shutdown would be chaotic, harmful and painful. He's right, and that's why we shouldn't do it," Thune, a South Dakota Republican, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Still, Democrats argued Trump's agreement to hold a meeting shows he's feeling the pressure to negotiate. They say that because Republicans control the White House and Congress, Americans will mostly blame them for any government shutdown.

Democrats are pushing for an extension to Affordable Care Act tax credits that have subsidized health insurance for millions of people since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The credits, which are designed to expand coverage for low- and middle-income people, are set to expire at the end of the year.

At a Monday news conference, Jeffries, a New York Democrat, called health care cuts a "five-alarm fire" that is rippling across communities nationwide.

"We're not going to simply go along to get along with a Republican bill that continues to gut the health care of everyday Americans who are already living with this Trump economy, where costs aren't going down but they're going up," he said.

The pandemic-era ACA subsidies are set to expire in a matter of months if Congress fails to act.

Some Republicans are open to extending the tax credits but want changes. Thune said Sunday that the program is "desperately in need of reform" and Republicans want to address "waste, fraud and abuse."

He has pressed Democrats to vote for the funding bill and take up the debate on tax credits later.

How will Democrats vote?

To hold on to their negotiating leverage, Senate Democrats will likely have to vote against a bill to temporarily extend government funding on Tuesday, just hours before a shutdown an uncomfortable position for a party that has long denounced shutdowns as pointless and destructive.

The bill has already passed the Republican-controlled House and would keep the government funded for seven more weeks while Congress works on annual spending legislation.

Any legislation to fund the government will need support from at least 60 senators in the 100-member chamber. That means that at least eight Democrats would have to vote for the short-term funding bill, because Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky is expected to vote against it.

During the last potential government shutdown in March, Schumer and nine other Democrats voted to break a filibuster and allow a Republican-led funding bill to advance to a final vote. The New York Democrat faced fierce backlash from many in his own party for that decision, with some even calling for him to step down as Democratic leader.

Senate Democrats have begun to discuss some possible next steps if the government does shut down potentially a proposal for a one- or two-week stopgap if Republicans will work with them on a health care fix, according to several people familiar with the private talks who requested anonymity to discuss them. But there is no consensus in the caucus about how to proceed, or guarantees that Republicans and Trump would negotiate.❑

Louisiana issues a warrant to arrest California doctor accused of mailing abortion pills

By SARA CLINE and GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana is pursuing a criminal case against another out-of-state doctor accused of mailing abortion pills to a patient in the state, court documents filed this month revealed.

A warrant for the arrest of a California doctor is a rare charge of violating one of the state abortion bans that has taken effect since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022 and allowed enforcement.

It represents an additional front in a growing legal battle between liberal and conservative states over prescribing abortion medications via telehealth and mailing them to patients.

Pills are the most common way abortions are accessed in the U.S., and are a major reason that, despite the bans, abortion numbers rose last year, according to a report.

A Louisiana woman says she was forced to take abortion drugs

Louisiana said in a court case filed Sept. 19 that it had issued a warrant for a California-based doctor who it says provided pills to a Louisiana woman in 2023. Both the woman, Rosalie Markezich, and the state attorney's general, are seeking to be part of a lawsuit that seeks to order drug regulators to bar telehealth prescriptions to mifepristone, one of the two drugs usually used in combination for medication abortions.

Mifepristone tablets are seen in a Planned Parenthood clinic, July 18, 2024, in Ames, Iowa.
Associated Press

In court filings, Markezich says her boyfriend at the time used her email address to order drugs from Dr. Remy Coeytaux, a California physician, and sent her $150, which she forwarded to Coeytaux. She said she had no other contact with the doctor.

She said she did not want to take the pills but felt forced to and said in the filing that "the trauma of my chemical abortion still haunts me" and that it would not have happened if telehealth prescriptions to the drug were off limits.

The accusation builds on a position taken by anti-abortion groups: That allowing abortion pills to be prescribed by phone or video call and filled by mail opens the door to women being coerced to take them. "Rosalie is bravely representing many woman who are victimized by the illegal, immoral, and unethical conduct of these drug dealers," Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill said in a statement.

The doctor also faces a lawsuit in Texas

Murrill's office did not immediately answer questions about what charges Coeytaux faces, or when the warrant was issued. But under the state's ban on abortions at all stages of pregnancy, physicians convicted of providing abortion face up to 15 years in prison and $200,000 in fines.

Coeytaux is also the target of a lawsuit filed in July in federal court by a Texas man who says the doctor illegally provided his girlfriend with abortion pills.

Coeytaux did not immediately respond to emails or a phone message.

The combination of a Louisiana criminal case and a Texas civil case over abortion pills is also playing out surrounding a New York doctor, Margaret Carpenter. New York authorities are refusing to extradite Dr. Carpenter to Louisiana or to enforce for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton the $100,000 civil judgment against her.❑

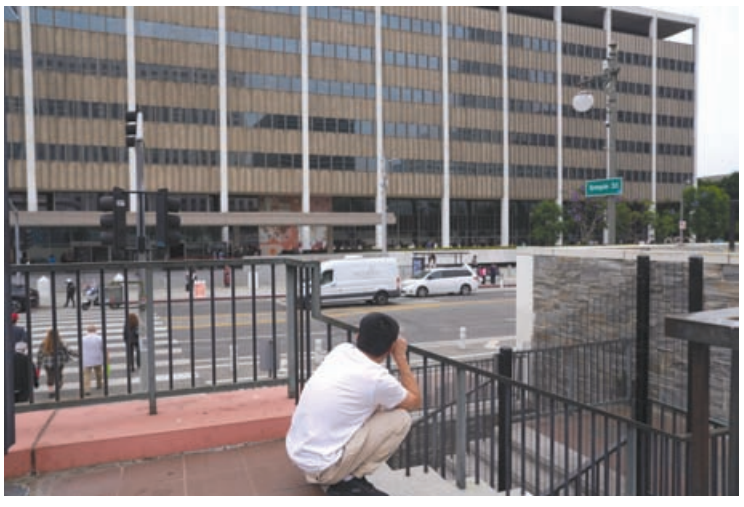
Federal indictment charges 3 activists with alleged 'doxing' of ICE agent in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three activists opposed to President Donald Trump's immigration raids in Los Angeles have been indicted on charges of illegally " doxing " a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, federal prosecutors said.

Investigators said the women followed the agent home, livestreamed their pursuit and then posted the agent's address online, according to a statement Friday from the U.S. Attorney's Office. Once they arrived at the agent's home, prosecutors allege the women shouted "ICE lives on your street and you should know," according to the indictment.

The defendants are each charged with one count of conspiracy and one count of publicly disclosing the personal information of a federal agent, the statement said.

Prosecutors said a 25-year-old woman from Panorama City, California, is free on $5,000 bond. A 38-year-old resident of Aurora, Colorado, who is also charged in a separate case with assault on a federal officer, is in custody without bond.



People line up outside the Los Angeles Federal Building in Los Angeles, housing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.
Associated Press

And authorities are searching for the third defendant, a 37-year-old woman from Riverside, California.

"Our brave federal agents put their lives on the line every day to keep our nation safe," Acting U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement. "The conduct of these defendants are deeply offensive to law enforcement officers and their families. If you threaten, dox, or harm in any manner one of our agents or employees, you will face prosecution and prison time."

Doxing is a typically malicious practice that involves gathering private or identifying information and releasing it online without the person's permission, usually in an attempt to harass, threaten, shame or exact revenge.

Attorneys for the women could not immediately be reached on Monday. An email was sent to the Federal Public Defender's Office asking if its attorneys are representing the defendants. According to the indictment, the three women last month followed an ICE agent from the federal building in downtown Los Angeles to the agent's residence in Baldwin Park east of LA.❑

Overseas Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Nathan Law denied entry to Singapore

BEIJING (AP) — An activist wanted by the Hong Kong government said he was denied entry to Singapore over the weekend for what he presumes were political reasons.

Nathan Law, who fled Hong Kong in 2020 and is based in London, said he was detained at the Singapore airport on Saturday night and told four hours later that his entry had been denied. Ten hours after that, he boarded a plane back to San Francisco on Sunday.

He was going to attend a closed-door, invitation-only event, he said in a statement, without elaborating.

Law is one of a number of Hong Kong activists who have left the city in recent years after the adoption of a National Security Law that has put others in prison.

He said he had received a visa from Singapore to attend the event and departed on a flight from San Francisco. No reason was given for the denial, he said.

"I think the decision to deny my entry was political, although I am unsure whether external forces, such as the PRC, are involved, directly or indirectly," his statement said, referring to China by the acronym for its official name, the People's Republic of China.

Hong Kong activist Nathan Law attends a candlelight vigil outside the Chinese Embassy in London on June 4, 2023, to mark the anniversary of China's bloody 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Associated Press

Law said he was held at a facility that he understood "detains people who need to be deported" and declined further comment.

A Singapore government statement confirmed that he had been refused entry, saying a visa holder is subject to further checks at the border. It noted that Hong Kong police have issued a warrant for Law's arrest under the city's National Security Law.

"Law's entry into and presence in the country would not be in Singapore's national interests," the statement from the Home Affairs Ministry said.

Eugene Tan, an associate professor of law at Singapore Management University, said the "action of the Singapore authorities in this case is not surprising."

Authorities are determined that "Singapore does not become a proxy battle ground for foreign politics," Tan wrote in an email response. Singapore has an extradition agreement with Hong Kong but it doesn't appear to cover national security crimes, Tan said.

Hong Kong police issued warrants for Law and other self-exiled activists in 2023 and offered rewards of 1 million Hong Kong dollars ($127,600) for information leading to their arrest.

Law is accused of colluding with foreign parties and inciting secession for allegedly calling for sanctions and Hong Kong's separation from China in meetings with foreign officials and in open letters, petitions, social media posts and media interviews.

A Hong Kong government statement urged Law to return to the city and surrender to authorities, saying he is suspected of continuing to commit national security offenses since fleeing overseas.

"Fugitives will be pursued for life unless they turn themselves in," it said.

Hong Kong is a Chinese territory with its own laws and regulations, but the central government in Beijing cracked down in 2020 after massive anti-government the previous year, imposing a National Security Law on the city of 7.5 million people.❑

Attack on Dutch-flagged ship off Yemen injures two and prompts crew to abandon vessel

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels set a Dutch-flagged cargo ship ablaze in the Gulf of Aden on Monday, officials said, injuring two mariners and forcing its crew to abandon the damaged vessel.

The attack on the Minervagracht represents the most-serious attack in the Gulf of Aden, some distance away from the Red Sea where the Iranian-backed Houthis sank two vessels in July.

While the rebels did not claim the assault, they had threatened to strike ships as part of their campaign over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip, particularly as Israel squeezes in on Gaza City in a new ground offensive. Meanwhile, the Mideast also remains on edge after the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program.

The Minervagracht had been targeted on Sept. 23 in an unsuccessful attack in the Gulf of Aden, which connects to the Red Sea via the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait separating East Africa from the Arabian Peninsula. On Monday, a missile launch seen by some in Yemen apparently struck the Minervagracht.

Spliethoff, the ship's owner, described the strike as "inflicting substantial damage to the ship." A helicopter evacuated the ship's 19 crew members, of which two suffered injuries in the attack, it added.

The French military's Maritime Information, Cooperation and Awareness Center identified the Houthis as carrying out the attack.

The Houthis did not immediately claim the possible attack. However, it can take hours or even days before the rebels claim their assaults.

The Houthis have launched missile and drone attacks on over 100 ships and on Israel in response to the war in Gaza, saying they were acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

However, the Houthi attacks have targeted ships in the past with little or no connection to Israel. The U.S. Navy-overseen Joint Maritime Information Center earlier said that the Minervagracht had "no Israeli affiliations."❑

Houthi fighters march during a rally of support for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and against the U.S. strikes on Yemen outside Sanaa on Jan. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

Madagascar's president fires the government following days of deadly Gen Z protests

By SARAH TÉTAUD and GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP) — Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina fired the prime minister and the rest of his government Monday in response to days of deadly Gen Z-led protests in the Indian Ocean island over the failure of the electricity and water supplies.

Rajoelina said in a speech on national television that Prime Minister Christian Ntsay and other government officials would stay on an interim basis until a new government is formed. He invited applications for government positions and gave a three-day time frame to review proposals for a new prime minister.

"Your demands have been heard, and I apologize if there are members of the government who have not done the work that the people expected," Rajoelina said. The protesters had called for the resignation of both Ntsay and Rajoelina, but Rajoelina gave no indication that he would step down.

Demonstrators hold up placards reading "water and electricity are basic human rights," "Malagasy people, wake up," "Let's not remain in the dark with our yellow cans" in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

The protests against chronic electricity and water cuts began on Thursday and drew thousands onto the streets, prompting the government to order nighttime curfews in the capital, Antananarivo, and other major cities. The demonstrations gathered momentum on social media and have mirrored recent youth-led anti-government protests in Nepal and Kenya.

The United Nations human rights office said earlier Monday that 22 people had been killed in clashes surrounding the protests. The U.N. agency blamed a "violent response" by security forces. More than 100 people also have been injured in the protests, the agency said.

Protesters and bystanders were killed by security forces, but some of the deaths also came in violence and looting by gangs not associated with the protesters, the U.N. rights office said in a statement.

U.N. high commissioner for human rights Volker Turk was shocked "at the violent response by security forces to the ongoing protests in Madagascar," the U.N. rights office said. It said the protests began peacefully on Thursday, "but the security forces intervened with unnecessary force, lobbing tear gas and beating and arresting protesters. Some officers also used live ammunition."

Madagascar Foreign Minister Rasata Rafaravavitafika disputed the U.N.'s death toll in a statement, saying "the government strongly denies" that 22 people had died. Yet Madagascar authorities have not given any figures of their own for how many people died or were injured.

Rajoelina said that he sympathized with anyone who had lost a loved one in the protests but also didn't offer a death toll on Monday. Thousands of protesters had returned to the streets in Antananarivo and other cities earlier on Monday, prompting security forces to again fire tear gas at the crowds.❑

Islamic school in Indonesia collapses, killing least 1 student and injuring dozens

By TRISNADI MARJAN and NINIEK KARMINI
Associated Press

SIDOARJO, Indonesia (AP) — A building under construction at an Islamic boarding school in Indonesia collapsed on dozens of praying students Monday, killing at least one student, injuring dozens and burying others in the rubble, officials said.

Police, soldiers and rescue workers dug into the debris through the night in attempts to locate at least three additional students believed trapped alive at Al Khoziny Islamic Boarding School in the East Java town of Sidoarjo. Rescuers also said they saw additional bodies, indicating the death toll was likely to rise.

A rescuer attempts to remove the trapped body of a victim after a building collapsed at an Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia, Monday, Sept. 29, 2025.

Associated Press

The students were performing afternoon prayers in a building that was undergoing an unauthorized expansion when it suddenly collapsed on top of them, provincial police spokesperson Jules Abraham Abast said.

One male student was killed and 83 other students were injured and taken to two nearby hospitals, some of them in critical condition, officials said.

Most of the victims were male, because female students were praying separately in another part of the building and managed to escape, survivors said. Residents, teachers and administrators assisted injured students, many with head injuries and broken bones.

Authorities launched an investigation into the cause of the building's collapse.

Abast said the old prayer hall was originally only two stories, but had been renovated by adding two more floors without a permit to build a new structure.

"The old building's foundation was apparently unable to support two floors of concrete and collapsed during the pouring process," Abast said.

Television reports showed dozens of rescue workers, police and soldiers desperately digging through steel reinforced concrete debris in search of survivors in overnight rescue operations, supported by heavy equipment.

Families of the students gathered near the collapsed building, anxiously awaiting news of their children.

Relatives wailed as they watched rescuers pull a dusty, injured student from a buried hall.

Heavy slabs of concrete and other rubble and unstable parts of the building hampered search and rescue efforts, said Nanang Sigit, who led the effort. Three students were believed to be trapped alive under the rubble.❑

Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves…and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love bird found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!❑

Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the northwest coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-feet ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature.❑

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. ❑

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.❑

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

HOUSE FOR SALE

Two Under One Roof
@ Seroe Blanco
• 2 bedroom, 1 bath, living/dining, kitchen, patio.
• Large apartment 1bath & storage

PRICE: USD $ 315.000
Contact via WhatsApp
Tel: 297 5692034
Email:
execsun2000@yahoo.com

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about…?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamento we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (forkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

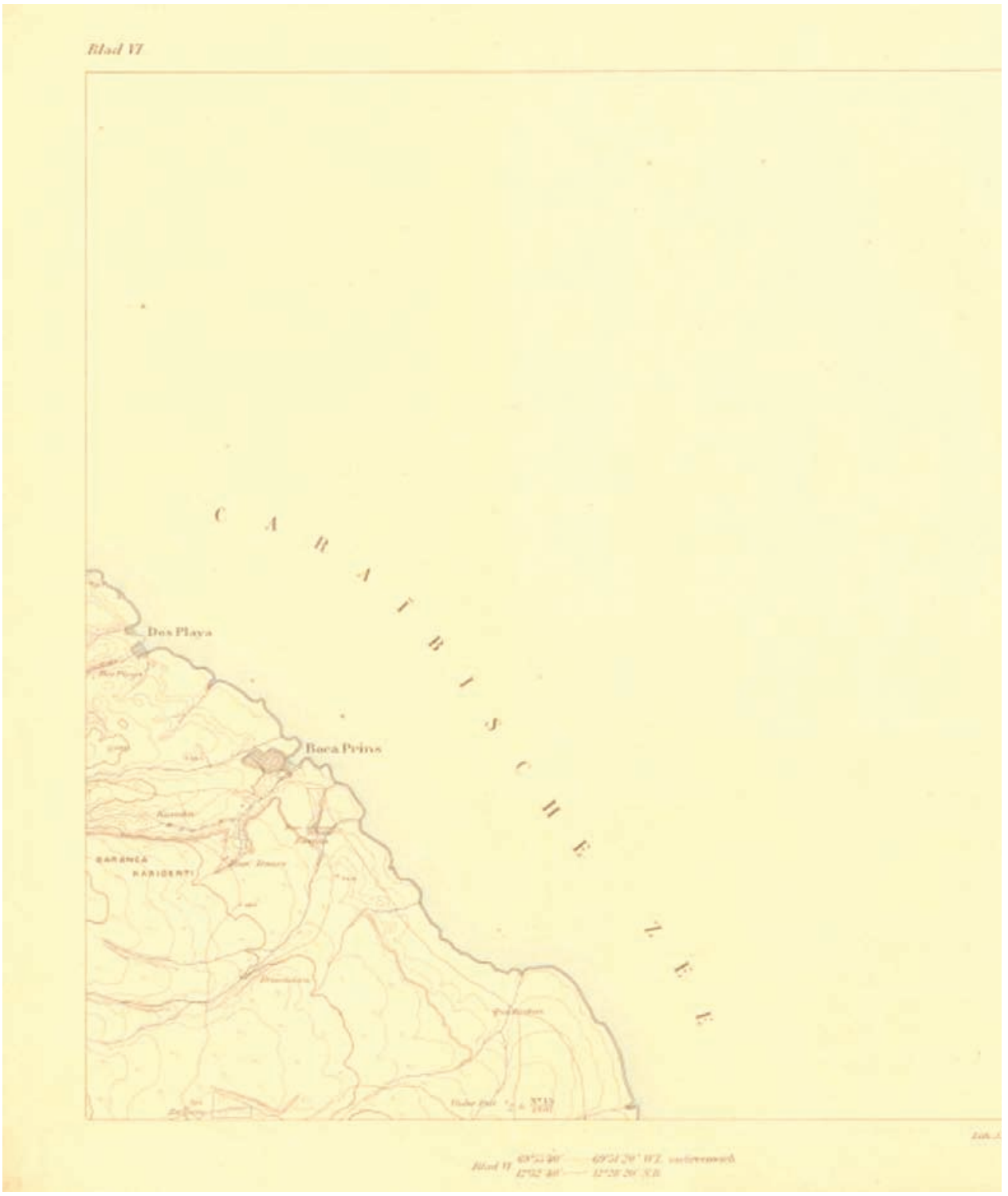
Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.❑

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.



The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded they kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

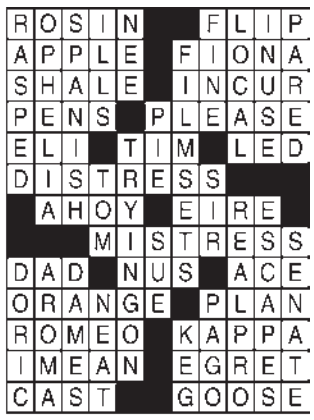
Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.❑

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock

ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

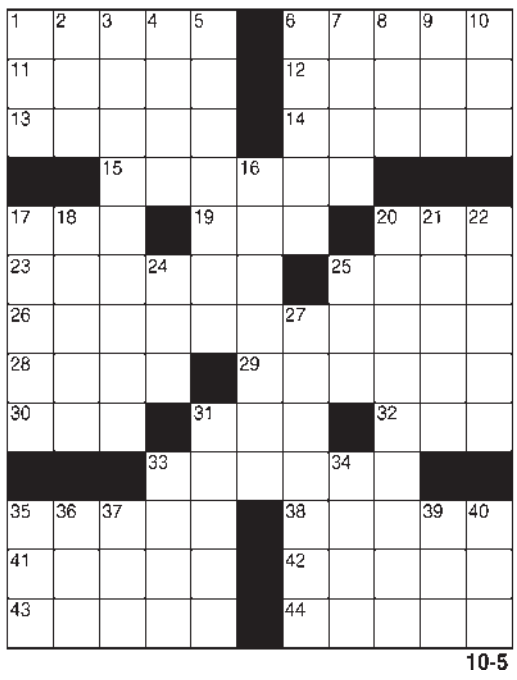


ACROSS

1 Wine barrels
6 Form
11 Little hooter
12 West Point student
13 Plow pioneer John
14 UV stopper
15 Make possible
17 Music booster
19 Fuming
20 Relaxing resort
23 Fresh face, say
25 Action star Jackie
26 Tiring climb
28 Vaccine type
29 Fall back
30 Neither follower
31 Torment
32 Spot to jot
33 Like some arguments
35 Writer P.D.
38 Take as one's own
41 Up in the air
42 Chad neighbor
43 Prison problems
44 Irritable

DOWN

1 Atlantic catch
2 Stunned wonder
3 PJs, say
4 "Show-boat" composer
5 Fill with mist
6 Bawl out
7 Visibility lessener
8 Fuss
9 Signing need
10 Hot time in Paris
16 Home to many Golden State Warriors fans
17 Williams of "Happy Days"
18 Paris subway
20 Border collies, e.g.
21 Bamboo eater
22 Paid for a hand
24 Salon stuff
25 300, to Caesar
27 Navigating aid
31 Suit pieces
33 Influence
34 Falco of "The Sopranos"
35 Mayo buy
36 Clay, later
37 Cattle call
39 Puppy or parrot
40 Take a stab at



10-5

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

P J A R S Y A R P F J B D O U R S J

R W G C J N R S D R L O N Z Q R P P S J

K R S H O I Z S J S D R C Y K D S O Q L

K R S H O I Z S J E D J F J B O N R .

— V R Q Q Y X R N C J G R M

Cryptoquote: IN WAKING A TIGER, USE A LONG STICK. — MAO ZEDONG

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 16 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	21.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	10.00	****	E	1
WED	24	OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	28	GRAND PRINCESS	09.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	30	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

7				2				
			7		8	1	6	
6	9			3	5	2		
1	7	6	9	8				3
3	8	4	5		1			
	2		3	7	4		8	
	1	9			7			8
		7				5	9	
	6			4			1	

Difficulty: ★★ 9/30

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	8	5	2	6	7	9	4
4	7	6	1	9	8	3	2	5
5	9	2	7	4	3	8	6	1
2	8	1	9	3	5	6	4	7
3	6	7	2	1	4	9	5	8
9	4	5	6	8	7	1	3	2
8	1	4	3	5	9	2	7	6
6	2	9	4	7	1	5	8	3
7	5	3	8	6	2	4	1	9

Difficulty: ★ 9/29

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

One Tech Tip: OpenAI adds parental controls to ChatGPT for teen safety

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, takes his seat before a meeting of the White House Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, in Washington. Associated Press

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — OpenAI said Monday it's adding parental controls to ChatGPT that are designed to provide teen users of the popular platform with a safer and more "age-appropriate" experience.

The company is taking action after AI chatbot safety for young users has hit the headlines. The technology's dangers have been recently highlighted by a number of cases in which teenagers took their lives after interacting with ChatGPT.

In the United States, the Federal Trade Commission has even opened an inquiry into several tech companies about the potential harms to children and teenagers who use their AI chatbots as companions.

In a blog post posted Monday, OpenAI outlined the new controls for parents. Here is a breakdown:

Getting started

The parental controls will be available to all users, but both parents and teens will need their own accounts to take advantage of them.

To get started, a parent or guardian needs to send an email or text message to invite a teen to connect their accounts. Or a teenager can send an invite to a parent. Users can send a request by going into the settings menu and then to the "Parental controls" section.

Teens can unlink their accounts at any time, but parents will be notified if they do.

Automatic safeguards

Once the accounts are linked, the teen account will get some built-in protections, OpenAI said.

Teen accounts will "automatically get additional content protections, including reduced graphic content, viral challenges, sexual, romantic or violent role-play, and extreme beauty ideals, to help keep their experience age-appropriate," the company said.

Parents can choose to turn these filters off, but teen users don't have the option.

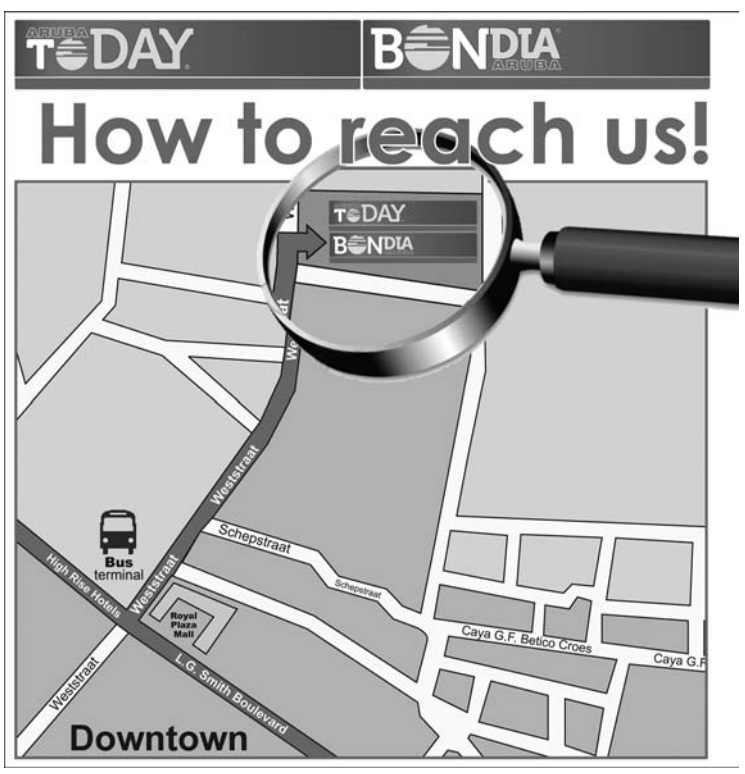
OpenAI warns that such guardrails are "not foolproof and can be bypassed if someone is intentionally trying to get around them." It advised parents to talk with their children about "healthy AI use."

Adjusting settings

Parents are getting a control panel where they can adjust a range of settings as well as switch off the restrictions on sensitive content mentioned above.

For example, does your teen stay up way past bedtime to use ChatGPT? Parents can set a quiet time when the chatbot can't be used.

Other settings include turning off the AI's memory so conversations can't be saved and won't be used in future responses; turning off the ability to generate or edit images; turning off voice mode; and opting out of having chats used to train ChatGPT's AI models.❑



LOOKING FOR
a short term
DUTCH VILLAGE
Contract with 10 years or less left
Contact me at
thumpy98@aol.com
325751

ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@ArubaTodayNews

HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Trupial: Tel.583 8560
San Nicolas:
Aloe: Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook
ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Video gamer Electronic Arts to be acquired for $55 billion in largest-ever private equity buyout

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AND MICHELLE CHAPMAN
The Associated Press

Electronic Arts, the maker of video games like "Madden NFL," "Battlefield," and "The Sims," is being acquired for $55 billion in what could become the largest private equity-funded buyout in history.

Silver Lake Partners, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund PIF, and Affinity Partners will pay EA's stockholders $210 per share. Affinity Partners is run by President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

The equity value of the deal is $55 billion, far exceeding the $32 billion price tag to take Texas utility TXU private in 2007, which had shattered records for leveraged buyouts.

PIF, which was currently the largest insider stakeholder in Electronic Arts, will be rolling over its existing 9.9% investment in the company.

The commitment to the massive deal is inline with recent activity in the gaming sector by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, wrote Andrew Marok of Raymond James.

"The Saudi PIF has been a very active player in the video gaming market since 2022, taking minority stakes in most scaled public video gaming publishers, and also outright purchases of companies like ESL, FACEIT, and Scopely," he wrote. "The PIF has made its intentions to scale its gaming arm, Savvy Gaming Group, clear, and the EA deal would represent the biggest such move to date by some distance."

The logo for Electronic Arts is displayed during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles on June 12, 2013.

Associated Press

PIF is also a minority investor in Nintendo.

If the transaction closes as anticipated, it will end EA's 36-year history as a publicly traded company that began with its shares ending its first day of trading at a split-adjusted 52 cents.

The IPO came seven years after EA was founded by former Apple employee William "Trip" Hawkins, who began playing analog versions of baseball and football made by "Strat-O-Matic" as a teenager during the 1960s.

CEO Andrew Wilson has led the company since 2013 and he will remain in that role, the firms said Monday. Electronic Arts would be taken private and its headquarters would remain in Redwood City, California.

"Electronic Arts is an extraordinary company with a world-class management team and a bold vision for the future," said Kushner, CEO of Affinity Partners. "I've admired their ability to create iconic, lasting experiences, and as someone who grew up playing their games - and now enjoys them with his kids I couldn't be more excited about what's ahead."

The size of the video game market has attracted large investors in recent years.

One of EA's biggest rivals Activision Blizzard was snapped up by technology powerhouse Microsoft for nearly $69 billion in 2023, while the competition from mobile video game makers such as Epic Games has intensified.

This marks the second high-profile deal involving Silver Lake and a technology company with a legion of loyal fans in recent weeks. Silver Lake is also part of a newly formed joint venture spearheaded by Oracle involved in a deal to take over the U.S. oversight of TikTok's social video platform, although all the details of that complex transaction haven't been divulged yet. Silver Lake also bought out two other well-known technology companies, the now-defunct video calling service Skype in a $1.9 billion deal completed in 2009, and a $24.9 billion buyout of personal computer maker Dell in 2013. After Dell restructured its operations as a private company, it returned to the stock market with publicly traded shares in 2018.

By going private, EA will be able to retool operations without worrying about market reactions. Although its video games still have a fervent following, EA's annual revenues have been stagnant during the past three fiscal years, hovering from $7.4 billion to $7.6 billion.❑

DoorDash and Kroger are expanding their grocery delivery partnership

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

DoorDash and Kroger are expanding their grocery delivery partnership.

Starting Oct. 1, DoorDash will offer delivery from Kroger's 2,700 U.S. stores, both companies said Monday.

San Francisco-based DoorDash, which is the largest U.S. delivery provider, launched grocery delivery in 2020 with a handful of partners, including Fresh Thyme and Meijer.

DoorDash first partnered with Kroger in 2022, when it started delivering flowers, sushi and prepared meals from a limited number of stores. Until now, DoorDash was only delivering sushi from 900 Kroger stores and flowers from 1,700 Kroger stores. But starting Oct. 1, Kroger's full assortment will be available to DoorDash customers.

A general view of a Kroger grocery store in Monroe, Ohio.

Associated Press

Yael Cosset, Kroger's chief digital officer, said the expanded partnership will bring new customers to Kroger and simplify their lives.

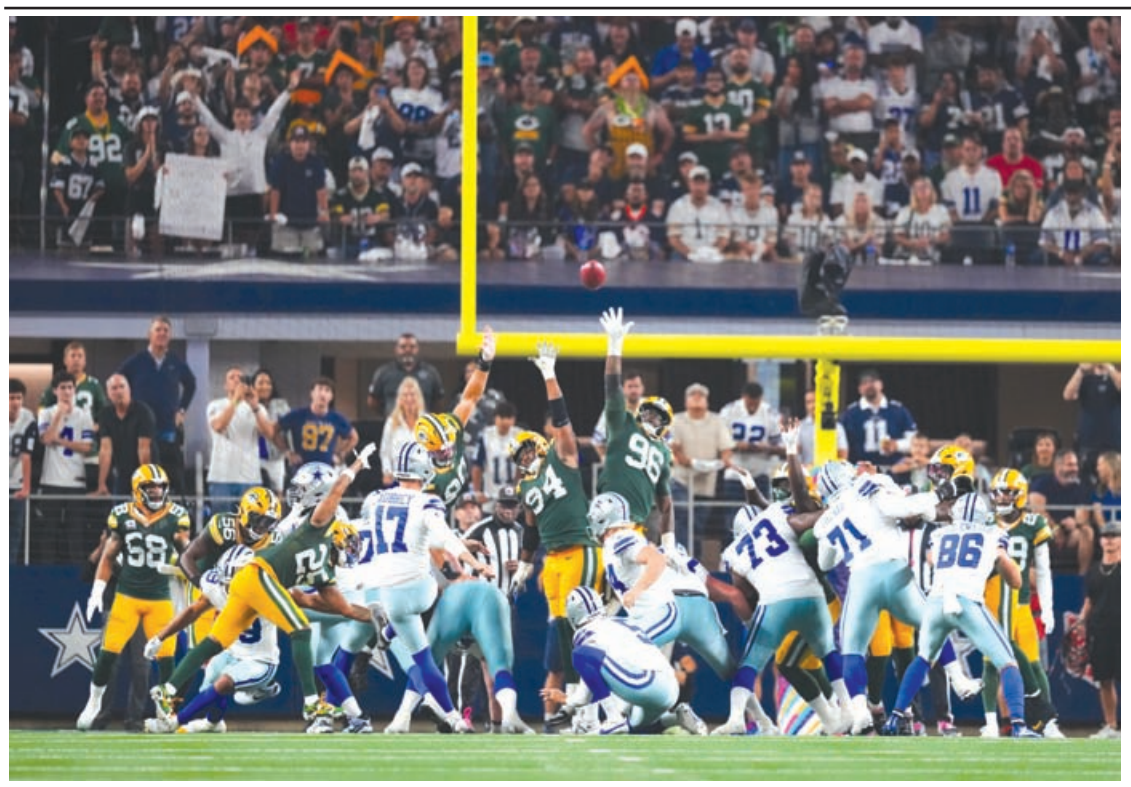
"Customers are looking for more convenient ways to shop at their local Kroger store, and delivery is an increasingly important way they engage with us," Cosset said in a statement.

Prabir Adarkar, DoorDash's president and chief operating officer, said the expanded partnership with Kroger is a milestone for DoorDash, since it will be the largest grocer available on the company's app.

DoorDash used to offer grocery delivery from Walmart, but that partnership ended in 2022.

Cincinnati-based Kroger is the largest U.S. grocery chain, with stores in 35 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to Kroger stores, it operates the Ralphs, Smith's, King Soopers, Fred Meyer, Harris Teeter and Mariano's brands, among others.

Kroger also offers its own delivery service and partners with some of DoorDash's delivery rivals, including Instacart and Uber Eats.❑



Green Bay Packers place kicker Brandon McManus kicks a field goal in overtime of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

What is the overtime rule the NFL adopted for this season?

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

Micah Parsons' much-anticipated return to Dallas to face his former Cowboys teammates ended with a 40-40 tie and the rare walk-off game-tying field goal.

The Cowboys' Brandon Aubrey and Green Bay's Brandon McManus traded short field goals in overtime Sunday night, and Parsons' only sack played a role in keeping Dallas out of the end zone in the extra period. It was the second time the Cowboys played into overtime this season with both coming after 37-37 ties in regulation.

The first ended on a field goal by Aubrey in the final second of the 10-minute extra period that gave Dallas a 40-37 win over the New York Giants. This one ended when McManus hit a field goal with no time remaining for the NFL's first tie since 2022 and Dallas' first in an overtime game.

Ties could be more prevalent this season thanks to a tweak in the NFL's overtime rule that didn't play a role Sunday night but could in the future.

What is the overtime rule for this season?

The league approved a proposal to make regular-season overtime more like the postseason, with both teams getting a chance at a possession, even if the team that gets the ball first scores a touchdown.

The NFL instituted regular-season overtime in 1974, adding a 15-minute sudden-death period that ended on any score. In 2010, the rule was tweaked to a modified sudden death that required an opening possession touchdown to immediately end the game instead of only a field goal.

That was in effect in both the regular season and the playoffs.

Overtime then was shortened for the regular season to only 10 minutes in 2017. A rule change in 2022 for the playoffs gave both teams the chance to score even with a touchdown on the opening possession.

Now that's the case in the regular season, after the improved field position on kickoffs made winning in OT on an opening possession TD easier.

How did the previous rule work out?

According to Sportradar, six of the 16 overtime games last season ended on an opening-drive TD for the most overtime games ended on the first drive since the rule change went into effect in 2010.

In all, teams that won the overtime toss won 75% of the time last season, according to Sportradar, and had a .606 winning percentage in overtime since it was cut to 10 minutes.

The league kept the 10-minute overtime period instead of expanding it back to 15 minutes like was originally proposed by Philadelphia, which could lead to teams opting to go for 2 and a win if they match an opening-drive TD with one of their own since there might not be time for another possession.

How rare was Sunday night's OT?

The game Sunday marked just the fifth time since the overtime rule was changed in 2010 that a game ended in a tie after both teams kicked a field goal.

It first happened in Week 13 of the 2013 season when Green Bay's Mason Crosby and Minnesota's Blair Walsh traded overtime field goals in a 26-26 game.

It happened again the following season when Graham Gano matched Mike Nugent's kick to give Carolina a 37-37 tie against Cincinnati. Arizona and Seattle traded overtime field goals in a 6-6 tie in Week 7 of the 2016 season and Detroit and Arizona did it in Kyler Murray's first career start in 2019.❑

Red Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito to miss Wild Card Series vs. Yankees because of elbow injury

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Lucas Giolito reacts after striking out Athletics Lawrence Butler with bases loaded in the third inning in of a baseball game against the Athletics, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025, in Boston.

Associated Press

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston Red Sox right-hander Lucas Giolito will miss the AL Wild Card Series because of an injured elbow.

A 31-year-old right-hander, Giolito had been expected to start the third game of the best-of-three series on Thursday, following Garrett Crochet (18-5) and Brayan Bello (11-9) in Boston's rotation.

"It's a big blow," Crochet said. "He's a great arm and I think that he strikes fear in opposing lineups."

Giolito went to be examined by Dr. Jeffrey Dugas at the Andrews Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center. Dugas repaired the ulnar collateral ligament in Giolito's right elbow with internal brace surgery on March 12 last year.

"He's been battling with his elbow the last few days, and today he went to see Dr. Dugas," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said Monday. "Hopefully it's nothing major, but he won't be ready for this one."

Left-handers Connelly Early (1-2) and Kyle Harrison, who was 1-1 with San Francisco before being traded to Boston, are candidates to start a Game 3.

New York starts left-handers Max Fried (19-5) and Carlos Rodón (18-9) in the first two games, followed by rookie Cam Schlittler (4-3).

Giolito's average fastball velocity dropped steadily in the final month of the regular season, from 93.9 mph on Aug. 26 at Arizona to 92.1 mph in his final start at Toronto on Sept. 23. He was 0-2 with a 3.66 ERA in four September starts after going 3-0 with a 2.39 ERA in six August appearances.

"I believe he was fighting it. He was going to throw a bullpen during the week, and we had to cut it short," Cora said. "After Saturday, Sunday, he didn't look too good, especially yesterday."

Giolito was 10-4 with a 3.41 ERA in 26 starts this season. He also had Tommy John surgery with Dr. Lewis Yocum on Sept. 13, 2012.

An All-Star in 2019, Giolito is 71-66 with a 4.30 ERA in nine major league seasons with Washington (2016), the Chicago White Sox (2017-23), the Los Angeles Angels (2023), Cleveland (2023) and Boston (2025).❑

LeBron not thinking about retirement or son Bryce's future as he begins 23rd NBA season with Lakers

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — LeBron James reported to his 23rd training camp on Monday and gave no indication whether it will be his last.

After an offseason filled with his usual extensive work on his game and a new passion for work on his golf game the top scorer in NBA history is invigorated and focused on the chance to play a full season alongside Luka Doncic and to compete for his next championship with the Los Angeles Lakers' revamped roster.

"I'm excited about today," James said during the Lakers' media day at their training complex. "I'm excited about the opportunity to be able to play the game that I love for another season. However the journey lays out this year, I'm super-invested, because I don't know when the end is. I know it's a lot sooner than later."

James is also grateful for another year of playing alongside his oldest son, Bronny, a backup point guard for the Lakers but he claims the possibility of playing in the league at the same time as both of his sons isn't an immediate thought in his mind.

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James poses for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day in El Segundo, Calif., Monday, Sept. 29, 2025.

Associated Press

James' second son, Bryce, will be a freshman on the University of Arizona's basketball team this fall, so James realizes that both of his sons could be in the NBA by next season.

"I'm not waiting on Bryce," James said with a smile. "I don't know what his timeline is. He's his own young man now.

He's down in Tucson. We'll see what happens this year, next year. He has his own timeline, I've got my timeline, and I don't know if they quite match up. We'll see."

James will turn 41 in December, but he says retirement is only a vague notion next to his immediate goal of building the Lakers into a title contender. He is well aware of the history he'll make when he becomes the first player in NBA history to play in 23 seasons when he steps on the court Oct. 21 against Golden State.

"It's pretty cool to know how many miles I've got and still be able to play at a high level," James said. "For me, age is kind of just a number, but it is reality, too. You look at the history of the game, there's not been many guys at my age, especially going into Year 23, that have been able to play at a level like that. I just try not to take it for granted and just try to give the game as much as I can, inspire whoever I can."

After four championships and innumerable individual accolades, James insists he still has various things to prove in his final seasons, even if only to himself.

James is also mindful of having fun every day, whether he's improving his rudimentary golf game or enjoying his family.

"I feel like you are the age which you tell your mind you are," James said. "How could I not feel young? I mean, my wife is beautiful. I look good. I look at my age, it's like the wine that I drink. The older wine I drink, the better it is. I feel great."

The current season is his eighth with the Lakers, which means his time in Los Angeles is now his longest continuous tenure with a team. He played his first seven seasons with his hometown Cavaliers, followed by four with Miami and four more back in Cleveland before moving to Hollywood in 2018.

But James is still doing the work deep into his third decade in the NBA and the results are incredible.

James was named to the All-NBA second team last year, marking his 21st consecutive season on one of the three teams.

He averaged 24.4 points, 8.2 assists and 7.8 rebounds while staying largely healthy and playing in 70 games.❑

Latin superstar Bad Bunny will headline the 2026 Super Bowl halftime show

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bad Bunny will bring his Latin trap and reggaeton swagger to the NFL's biggest stage next year: The Grammy winner will headline the Apple Music Super Bowl halftime show in Northern California.

The NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation announced Sunday that Bad Bunny will lead the halftime festivities from Levi's Stadium on Feb. 8 in Santa Clara, California.

The Puerto Rican superstar's selection comes amid another career-defining run: He's fresh off a historic Puerto Rico residency this month that drew more than half a million fans and is leading all nominees at the Latin Grammys in November. He has become one of the world's most streamed artists with albums such as "Un Verano Sin Ti," an all-Spanish-language LP.

Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio (aka Bad Bunny) attends the premiere of "Caught Stealing" at Regal Union Square on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

Bad Bunny will host "Saturday Night Live" on Oct. 4.

"What I'm feeling goes beyond myself," Bad Bunny said in a statement. "It's for those who came before me and ran countless yards so I could come in and score a touchdown… this is for my people, my culture, and our history. Ve y dile a tu abuela, que seremos el HALFTIME SHOW DEL SUPER BOWL."

Roc Nation founder Jay-Z said in a statement that what Bad Bunny has "done and continues to do for Puerto Rico is truly inspiring. We are honored to have him on the world's biggest stage." The 31-year-old artist born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio has won three Grammys and 12 Latin Grammys. He has become a global ambassador for Latin music, starred in films such as "Bullet Train," "Caught Stealing" and "Happy Gilmore 2," and collaborated with top fashion houses. He'll enter the Latin Grammys as the leading nominee with 12, dethroning producer and songwriter Édgar Barrera.❑